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To: Microsoft ATR
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Subject: Microsoft Settlement

to the Dept of Justice; this will define my position on the Microsoft settlement.

I believe that Microsoft is being unfairly punished for acting in the best interest of the business, its shareholders and the public. The accusations of monopolistic business practices have largely come from it's competitors and those with business interests who would best be served if Microsoft were much less successful, as well as those whose political interests would be served by damaging the corporation. There is also a segment of the US population who are opposed to the capitalistic ethic and those who are very successful.

The very existence of Microsoft's operating system has created the potential for our economy and the world to finally benefit from the power of computing. Prior to the Microsoft operating system and ancillary software related to it, there was NO compatibility among hardware, software, peripheral equipment, and communication systems. IBM, Unisys, NCR, le Machines Bull, RCA, ATT, ITT, and the entire universe of others world-wide, demanded that their own parochial architecture be maintained. By Microsoft creating this 'de facto' standard the entire world information arena has been opened to a universal ability to share, communicate, compute, and manipulate information in a way that prior to this standard would have been impossible.

I am astounded that the minds of this political system fail to recognize the subterfuge planned by the anti-microsoft proponents to return us to the neanderthal stoneage of incompatibility. The entire computing user universe must have compatibility to continue to exist in our current environment.

To require Microsoft to provide interfaceability standards to the user/competitor population is reasonable. To force them to reveal corporate trade secrets is to participate in criminal homicide of successful capitalism by government. What's next, nationalization of our strongest, healthiest corporate entities?

Microsoft is one of the only technology companies which has survived the recent recession. It is because of the inherent value of it's products and services. Please do not commit economic suicide for all of us with unreasonable punishment for crimes not committed, but cast up by those in the market place who are unable to compete successfully in that market.

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